

# Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services

## A Talking Points Paper

### B8 Topic: Supplemental Security Income and Caretaker Supplement

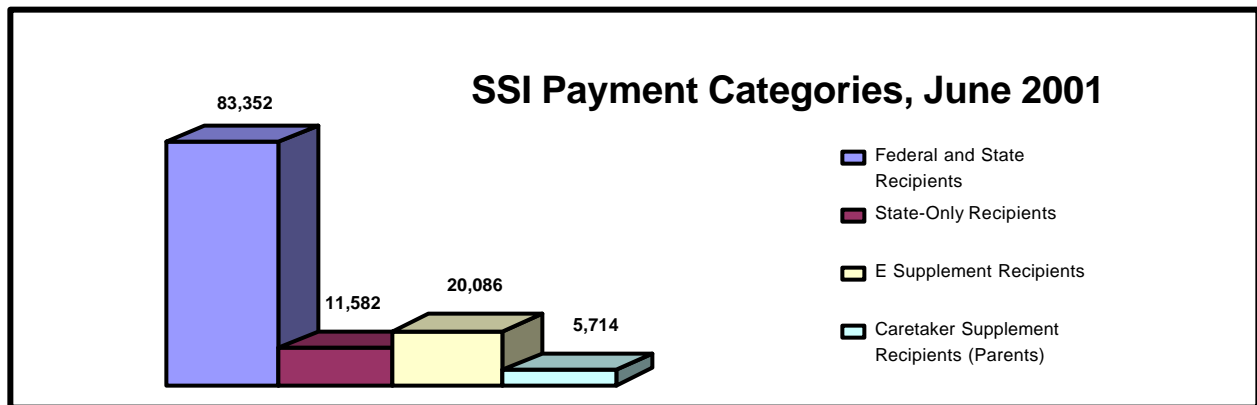
Last Update: June 1, 2002

#### Eligibility and Benefits

Wisconsin Supplemental Security Income (SSI) is a monthly cash benefit paid to low income adults and children who are elderly, have disabilities or are blind. SSI benefit payments are made by both the state and federal governments. Payment amounts are based on living arrangement and marital status. All SSI recipients in Wisconsin are eligible for Medicaid.

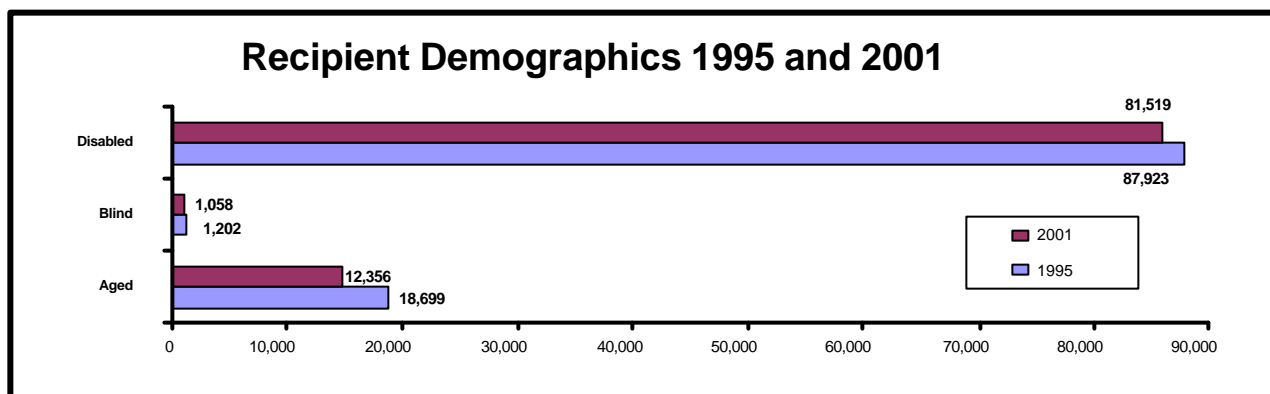
#### Monthly Payment Composition

Wisconsin's SSI cash benefit includes three components: a basic supplement, an exceptional expense (E) supplement and supplement for (caretaker) parents of dependent children. The basic supplemental payment for a single person living alone is a maximum of \$83.78 per month. The dollar amount of a recipient's basic supplement depends on living arrangement, marital status and amount of federal SSI benefit received. A recipient of the E supplement receives up to an additional \$95.99 and caretaker parents receive an additional \$250 per month for their first eligible child and \$150 per month for each additional eligible child. In June 2001 DHFS paid cash SSI benefits and provided Medicaid to 11,582 Wisconsin residents (state-only SSI beneficiaries) who were not eligible for federal SSI benefits.



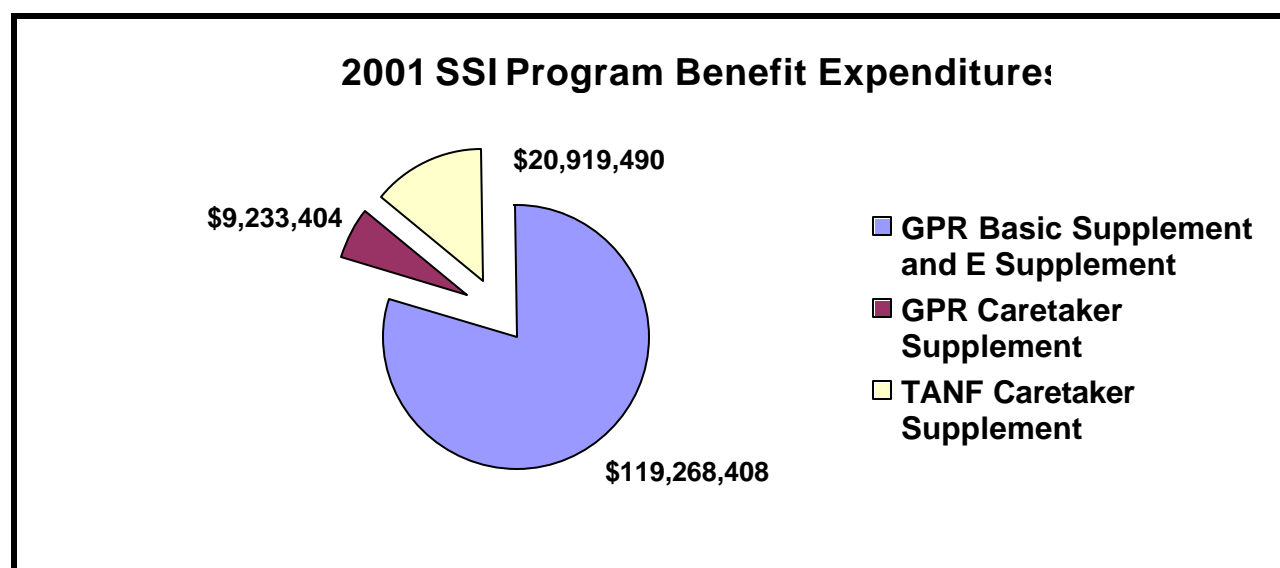
#### Recipient Demographics

In June 2001, 94,934 individuals received cash SSI payments in Wisconsin. Disabled recipients comprised 85 percent of this population and elderly or blind recipients comprised 14 percent and 1 percent, respectively. While the majority of June recipients were adults, 19,916 (20 percent) were either disabled or blind children. Demographics based on age, blindness or disability, along with comparables for January 1995, are depicted in the following chart:



## Expenditures

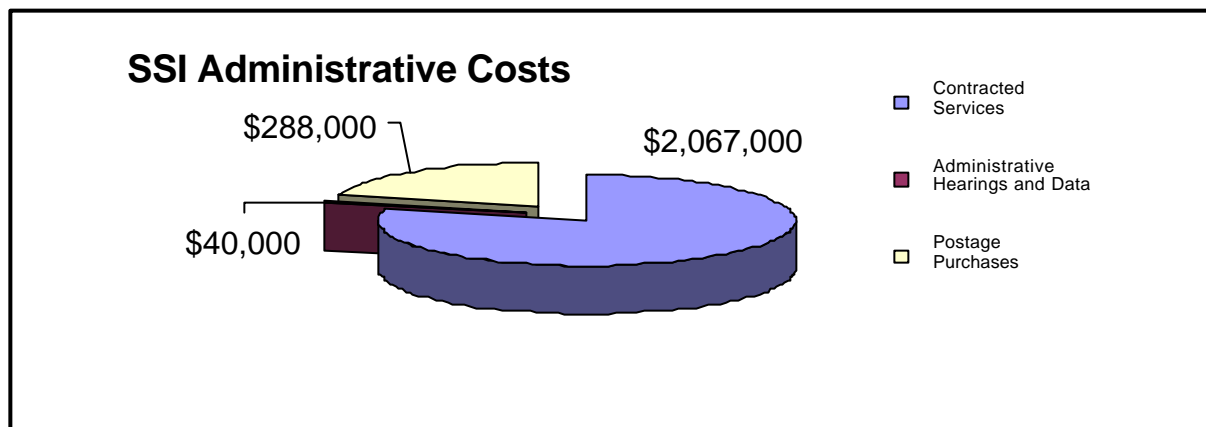
Based on federal statutory provisions, DHFS is required to expend \$128,281,493 in state funds on SSI benefits during each calendar year. This is referred to as Wisconsin's maintenance of effort or passalong requirement for SSI. During 2001, the Wisconsin SSI program expended \$149,421,302 in combined state supplement, E supplement and caretaker supplement benefits. DHFS used \$20,919,490 from Wisconsin's federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) grant to supplement its required benefit payments during 2001.



## Administration

The Wisconsin supplement to federal SSI is administered by the Department of Health and Family Services, Division of Supportive Living, SSI Coordinator. Maintenance of recipient eligibility files, payment records, monthly check processing and operation of a SSI recipient helpline (800-675-0249) are activities performed by EDS and Deloitte Consulting, electronic data processing firms, under contract with the Department. The Department's direct and contracted administrative activities are funded at \$1,595,600 (GPR, TANF ) in the current

biennium. In addition, the Department will capture at least \$800,000 additional federal match for Medicaid related activities performed as part of the Wisconsin SSI program. This total administrative funding package of \$2,395,000 contrasts with an administrative expense of at least \$18,759,600 (GPR) were DHFS to have contracted with the federal Social Security Administration to administer Wisconsin's SSI payments in the biennium ending June 30, 2001.\* As of June 2001, EDS dispersed approximately 57 percent of monthly SSI payments via direct deposit into recipients' bank accounts; the remainder of payments were mailed to recipients or their representative payees. Actual SSI program administrative expenditures for the biennium ending June 30, 2001 are portrayed in the following graphic:



Based on a federal administrative fee of \$8.10 per recipient payment per month.

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